

The PVRC Newsletter

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MEETING NOTICE

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WHEN: Monday, January 13, 1986, at 7:30 p.m.
WHERE: QTH of K3ZO, 5801 Huntland Road, Temple Hills, MD; see last page for directions.
WHAT: 1. Discussion on permanent meeting location(s);
2. Club plans for the ARRL DX contests;
3. Presentation by Pete Smith, N4ZR, of WINNER'S EDGE contest software for the Commodore 64 computer.

President's Korner

It was nice to see so many of you at the Christmas Dinner last month. Thirty-nine members and guests came out for a wonderful buffet meal at the Brooke Manor Country Club in Rockville. Thanks for making all the arrangements, Andy (W3XE).

Walt McGugan, W3FG, was presented with the annual PVRC clock award in recognition of his outstanding work over the years as club treasurer and newsletter editor in addition to his participation in other club activities.

I have also been happy to see so many members paying up their dues, including several who have been pretty quiet for the past several years. We are working on a system so that your mailing label will indicate the year your dues are paid through. This is in response to many comments by members that they just can't remember whether they have paid or not. Adding this to the mailing label, as all magazines and other publications do, will hopefully be a painless (except for Walt) and confidential manner of keeping all our members informed of their status.

If you weren't at the Christmas dinner, you missed an excellent presentation by John Johnston, W3BE, the former president of our rivals to the north, the Frankford Radio Club. Johnny spoke of the founding fathers of that club, and of contesting in general. He also related a few stories about the founding of our own PVRC.

It is time to prepare for the ARRL DX contests -- so please make sure that your antennas and rigs are in top working order now. CW weekend is February 15 - 16, 1986; Phone is March 1 - 2. So tell your boss you can't work those two weekends, and make plans to get on and show your stuff. Twenty still produces a lot of good DX work worldwide, and 40, 80, & 160 are at or close to the best they'll be for a number of years. Fifteen and ten pop open once in a while too -- I had 850 QSOs in December's Ten Meter contest, which wasn't bad for a "dead" band. ZM80Y was loud both days!

Hope to see you at the meeting. Pete's software is very helpful, and this is also a chance to tell him our ideas of what the computer should do for us to eliminate the drudgery of contest paperwork.

LETTERS TO PVRC

-- From Sherry Peruzzi: I would like to express my appreciation for the support and sympathy my husband Tom, W4BVV, and I received from PVRC members during the ten months of his illness, and after his death. Thanks to those who sent cards to brighten Tom's long, frequent, hospital stays; to those who took the time to visit him there; and particularly to those who have been giving the practical help so greatly needed. And to all of you who were present at Tom's memorial service, my heartfelt thanks - I gained much strength from your thoughtfulness and caring.

I had not had the opportunity in the past to do much contesting, but I have always enjoyed it, and Tom and I had been planning a "small" (to him!) contest station at our Maryland QTH. I was proud of Tom's sponsorship of the CQ trophy for so many years, and wanted it to continue to bear his call; so I am especially gratified that the PVRC will be sponsoring the "W4BVV Memorial." Many thanks to all of you. Sincerely, Sherry Peruzzi, N8COW.

-- From Dick Phelps, N4RP: I had enough adventures during the 1985 CQ WW CW test to write a short article for the newsletter - the adventures had more to do with hurricane KATE than the test! I had no rig on 160 so ZERO for that band - and no sunspots for 10 so the same. Other bands OK. Sure would like to borrow a 160 rig for ARRL. I'm not that keen on running a multi-op for ARRL but the rest of the winter my yacht KISKADEE is available for charter in the Bahamas at \$1200/week for up to four people - all inclusive, \$1100 the second week. Have rig. 73, Dick.

MEMBER ADS

--WANTED: A rig for 160 meters to borrow for the ARRL DX contests. Please contact Dick Phelps, N4RP, Box 030323, Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33303.

--TOWER WORK: Safe, reasonable, reliable. Contact Wayne Hillenbrand, N2FB, 1008 Lee Jackson Dr, Lothian, MD 20711, phone (301) 627-1166.

CW SS DIARY 1985 de Mike Colesante, KC8C (thanks to N8II for the inspiration)

As has been the case for the past two years, I trekked back to my home state of West Virginia to operate the 1985 CW Sweepstakes from the QTH of N8II. 1983 and 1984 had been frustrating due to a varied set of problems. 1983 found me right with the leaders at sleeptime only to have a drunk driver take out a power pole one hour after I got on in the morning and leave us without power for three hours. 1984 found me with a blown front end coil in one of the TS-830s, which wasn't realized until the damage to the rate was done.

This year I was determined to go through without problems. I ventured up to Jeff's one weekend in October to help with some antenna work and to be sure everything was in shape. One of the things we did was to replace the 40 meter dipole with a quad loop. This didn't seem to do the trick, possibly due to the bottom being quite near the ground. A Delta loop was also tried with similarly disappointing results, so the dipole was put back up. It served quite well as will be seen. We also replaced Jeff's 80 meter wire vertical with one made of tubing, which went up on the third try looking like a piece of saturated vermicelli.

Friday before the contest arrives and I'm raring to go. I do my grocery shopping at lunchtime in order to have as much time as possible on Saturday to relax. I arrive at Jeff's about 6:30 and after pizza we spend the rest of the evening discussing the previous weekend's WW SSB test.

Saturday I sleep till about 10:30 AM and then I'm ready to subject Jeff's station to its annual rape for my SS setup. As in the past, the station consisted of two TS-830s (mine and Jeff's), SB220, SB200, CK2, stereo headphones, and my "high tech" SS box which allows